

FORWARD

The US 95 Coeur d'Alene Corridor Study process has raised awareness by both ITD and community participants on the many issues facing our highway in the future. We've found that the issues and challenges related to US 95 are as complex and varied as the many users of this critical corridor.

This study provides a number of valuable outcomes, upon which the community can build. Some of these outcomes include:

- Definition and characterization of the complex traffic conditions, trends and features that exist today on the US 95 corridor. This information is enlightening in regards to current and future challenges in meeting the traffic demands on US 95 and associated cross streets.
- An analysis of future regional growth and its affects on US 95, which is already strained for capacity as a principal arterial. This is also valuable in defining the demands of growth in regard to the entire system of state and local highways.
- A dialogue with a broad spectrum of community citizens, local government leaders, businesses and highway users. This has provided valuable insight into the diverse perceptions and expectations of performance, demands, goals, and issues associated with the current US 95 and frustrations with its performance, as well as perceptions on potential needs and solutions.
- An improved understanding of the transportation corridor needs. This has resulted in an improved understanding of future needs for an alternate route, future needs to accommodate high demands on the existing alignment with or without an alternate route, and needs to make critical improvements to local roads which compliment and work in concert with US 95.
- A definition of potential solution components. The potential solutions include a broad range of possibilities. Much has been learned regarding the possible scope of solution components, accompanying merits and advantages of each, as well as perceived favorable and undesirable attributes associated with these options.

While additional future efforts will be needed to finalize decisions on corridor solution packages, a variety of themes have emerged from this process:

- The community's desire and traffic characteristics indicate a need to preserve the ability to implement a new north/south route similar to the proposed Huetter corridor.
- To maximize effectiveness, the overall solution package should be broad in nature as relating to identified needs on current US 95, any potential new alignment, as well as expanding needs on local roads and streets.
- With or without a new alignment, significant strategies will be needed on the existing US 95 alignment to accommodate mobility needs, accommodate current and future growth, preserve the functionality of intersecting local street systems, and satisfy the community's expectations for smooth and efficient traffic flow.

ITD appreciates the many people who have committed time and contributed ideas throughout the study process. We hope that open dialogue concerning the future of US 95 will continue. A strong community partnership will be essential for the success of any future project on US 95.

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